

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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TAGS: ELAB, PINT, AR

SUBJECT: ROMERO'S DEATH AND INCREASING INFLUENCE OF LORENZO
MIGUEL

SUMMARY. CGT EXECUTIVE BOARD APPLIES PROVISION CGT STATUTES TO NAME SUBSECGEN PALMA AS NEW SECGEN. DECISION BY EXECUTIVE BOARD AVOIDED ANTICIPATED ACRIMONIOUS DEBATE IN CCC WHERE DECISION WAS EXPECTED TO BE TAKEN. UOM SECGEN LORENZO MIGUEL, THE ONLY LABOR LEADER ALLIED WITH POLITICAL POWER LOPEZ REGA, IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE DOMINATING POLITICAL LABOR MATTERS IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE. INDICATIVE OF NEW TRADE UNION INDEPENDENCE WAS MIGUEL'S MILD REBUKE TO PRESIDENT ISABEL PERON FOR "INTERVENING" IN INTERNAL LABOR MATTERS. END SUMMARY.

1. DEATH OF CGT SECGEN ROMERO PRESENTED LABOR MOVEMENT WITH IMMEDIATE PROBLEM OF SUCCESSOR, WHICH COULD EASILY HAVE EXACERBATED INTERNAL TENSIONS AROUSED DURING CGT CONGRESS. ALTHOUGH MANY OBSERVERS BELIEVED ROMERO WOULD RESIGN WITHIN MONTHS, HIS PRESENCE WOULD HAVE SERVED TO HEAL RUPTURES CREATED BY POWER PLAY BETWEEN PRO-LORENZO MIGUEL AND ANTI-LORENZO MIGUEL SECTORS. THE CHOICE OF HIS SUCCESSOR, THEREFORE, WAS CONSIDERED OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UTMOST IMPORTANCE. IT WAS BELIEVED BY INFORMED OBSERVERS,

INCLUDING SEVERAL CGT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS, THAT THE CGT CONFEDERATED CENTRAL COMMITTEE (CCC - COMPOSED OF SECRETARIES GENERAL OF ALL AFFILIATED UNIONS) WOULD HAVE TO SELECT ROMERO'S REPLACEMENT. CGT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER CARRANZA TOLD LABATT JULY 15 THAT HE EXPECTED SELECTION IN CCC TO BE "EXTREMELY DIFFICULT" AND TO BE RESOLVED ONLY AFTER ACrimonious DEBATE. VIEW WAS THAT MANY MEMBERS WOULD USE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THEIR OPPOSITION TO FURTHER CONSOLIDATION UNION POWER IN HANDS UOM LEADER MIGUEL.

2. HOWEVER, IN SURPRISE MOVE EVENING JULY 15, EXECUTIVE BOARD APPLIED SPECIAL CGT STATUTE TO NAME SUBSEC GEN PALMA TO REPLACE ROMERO. ACTION WAS POSSIBLE AS NEW BOARD HAD NOT YET BEEN SWORN IN. SELECTION OF INARTICULATE, UNIMAGINATIVE PALMA, A MIGUEL SUPPORTER, WILL PERMIT MIGUEL TO DOMINATE CGT WHILE AVOIDING FURTHER INTERNAL SPLIT OVER SELECTION OTHER SUCCESSOR. NET RESULT WILL BE INCREASED IMPORTANCE 62 ORGANIZATIONS WITH CORRESPONDING DECREASED IMPORTANCE CGT IN NATIONAL POLITICAL ARENA.

3. PREEMINENCE LORENZO MIGUEL HAS IMPORTANT IMPLICATIONS FOR NATIONAL AS WELL AS TRADE UNION POLITICS. UOM TACTICS ARE RUTHLESS, AND RIGHTFULLY LABELED AS BORDERING ON GANGSTERISM. WITHOUT RESTRAINING HAND PERON, MIGUEL AND HIS METAL WORKERS UNION CAN BE EXPECTED TO TAKE MORE DIRECT ACTION AGAINST OPPONENTS BOTH WITHIN AND WITHOUT PERONIST MOVEMENT. HENCE, THE LEVEL OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE IS LIKELY TO INCREASE, ESPECIALLY IF MIGUEL WORKS CLOSELY WITH HARD-LINE, RIGHT-WING PRESIDENTIAL PRIVATE SECRETARY LOPEZ REGA. MIGUEL, ALMOST ALONE AMONG LABOR LEADERS, IS CONSIDERED ALLIED WITH LOPEZ REGA.

4. BECAUSE OF MIGUEL'S TIES WITH LOPEZ REGA, MANY OBSERVERS WERE SURPRISED WHEN PRESIDENT ISABEL PERON CALLED FOR REELECTION INCUMBENT CGT DIRECTIVE BOARD. SOME BELIEVE HER STATEMENT WAS MADE SPONTANEOUSLY UNDER BELIEF THAT CONTINUATION WAS PROPER THING TO CALL FOR IN VIEW HER STATEMENT THAT SHE WOULD CHANGE NONE OF PERON'S POLICIES. IT INTERESTING SIGN OF INCREASED INDEPENDENCE LABOR MOVEMENT THAT LORENZO MIGUEL PUBLICLY REBUKED PRESIDENT PERON, STATING THAT SHE, AS DID GENERAL PERON, WOULD NOT BECOME INVOLVED IN INTERNAL LABOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MATTERS. WHAT ROLE, IF ANY, LOPEZ REGA PLAYED IN THE MATTER IS UNKNOWN, BUT HE UNDOUBTEDLY WILL BE MIGUEL'S ADVOCATE WHEN COUNSELLING PRESIDENT PERON.

5. LABOR IS ADAMANT THAT IT NOT LOSE ITS HARD-GAINED POSITION OF POLITICAL INFLUENCE WITHIN ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT; THEREFORE, DESPITE OPPOSITION TO MIGUEL, EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO PUBLICLY PRESERVE ORTHODOX PERONIST UNITY WITHIN CGT, BUT

TENSIONS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY REMAIN CLOSE TO THE SURFACE.
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